

entitled, without loss or injury to any, and as there is no evidence other than that which is supposed to exist upon the face of their proceedings, I do not think the court should undertake to reverse their judgment. The provision found in the 9th section of the act of 1786, ch. 45, prohibiting the commissioners, when the land is not worth more than \$15 per acre, from dividing it into shares of less than fifty acres, forms no part of the act of 1820, and, it is fair to presume, was purposely dropped by the legislature.

But the objection that two of the infant heirs at law have no part of the inheritance given them until after the death of their mother, strikes me as much more formidable. There is nothing to show that they have any means of support independently of this property, and if that be the case, it is obvious they might be subjected to the most serious inconvenience, if not to absolute destitution. In the case of *Bennett vs. Bennett*, 5 Gill, 463, decided by the Court of Appeals, at December term, 1847, the objection now under consideration was brought to the notice of the court, and although the opinion as delivered does not express the views of the court upon this particular point, it is understood that such an objection to a partition under the act of Assembly was entitled to much weight, if it did not render it altogether void. Such a partition was regarded as ineligible and not to be viewed with favor. The return, therefore, in this case, will not be ratified, but the Chancellor forbears at present from passing an order, as the parties may possibly see some mode of avoiding a new survey.

[Another return was then made by the commissioners, which was again excepted to, and upon these exceptions the Chancellor on the 14th of November, 1849, delivered the following opinion, in which the exceptions and the return and partitions made are sufficiently stated.]

THE CHANCELLOR :

This case is submitted upon the objections of John B. Wilhelm and others to the several returns of the commissioners,